

English Translation of Amendment Under PCT Article 34

CLAIMS

5 1. (Amended) Detergent granules comprising a
non-soap, anionic surfactant and an inorganic salt
undetectable by X-ray diffraction method, wherein the
molar ratio of [inorganic salt undetectable by X-ray
diffraction method]/[non-soap, anionic surfactant] is from
10 0.1 to 1.0, and wherein the non-soap, anionic surfactant
is contained in the detergent granules in an amount of 28%
by weight or more and less than 50% by weight.

15 2. (Amended) Detergent granules comprising a
non-soap, anionic surfactant and an inorganic salt
undetectable by X-ray diffraction method, wherein the
molar ratio of [inorganic salt undetectable by X-ray
diffraction method]/[non-soap, anionic surfactant] is from
0.3 to 1.0, and wherein the non-soap, anionic surfactant
20 is contained in the detergent granules in an amount of 15%
by weight or more and less than 28% by weight.

25 3. (Amended) A method for producing detergent
granules, comprising the step of dry-neutralizing a
liquid acid precursor of a non-soap, anionic surfactant

with a water-soluble, solid, alkali inorganic substance, wherein a dry-neutralizing step is carried out in the presence of 0.1 to 1.0 mol of an inorganic acid per mol of said liquid acid precursor of a non-soap, anionic surfactant, and wherein the resulting detergent granules contain the non-soap, anionic surfactant in an amount of 28% by weight or more and less than 50% by weight, and have a molar ratio of [inorganic salt undetectable by X-ray diffraction method]/[non-soap, anionic surfactant] of from 0.1 to 1.0.

4. (Amended) A method for producing detergent granules, comprising the step of dry-neutralizing a liquid acid precursor of a non-soap, anionic surfactant with a water-soluble, solid, alkali inorganic substance, wherein a dry-neutralizing step is carried out in the presence of 0.3 to 1.0 mol of an inorganic acid per mol of said liquid acid precursor of a non-soap, anionic surfactant, and wherein the resulting detergent granules contain the non-soap, anionic surfactant in an amount of 15% by weight or more and less than 28% by weight, and have a molar ratio of [inorganic salt undetectable by X-ray diffraction method]/[non-soap, anionic surfactant] of from 0.3 to 1.0.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 3 or 4, further comprising the step of adding a free-flowing aid after the dry-neutralizing step, to surface-modify the detergent granules.

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 3 or 4, further comprising the step of adding a liquid component after the dry-neutralizing step.

10 7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of adding a free-flowing aid after the step of adding a liquid component, to surface-modify the detergent granules.

15 *a* 8. (Amended) The method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 3, ^{or 4} to 7, wherein said liquid acid precursor of a non-soap, anionic surfactant is a linear alkylbenzenesulfonic acid obtained by SO₃ gas sulfonation method.

20 *a* *sub B* 9. (Amended) The method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 3, ^{or 4} to 8, wherein an amount of an inorganic acid preexisting in the liquid acid precursor of a non-soap, anionic surfactant is 0.09 mol or less per mol of said
25 liquid acid precursor of a non-soap, anionic surfactant.

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11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

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